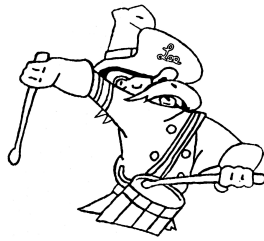


# Lee Rebel Bands

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*"A Tradition of Excellence"*

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Dear Presbytery of Lake Michigan,

I am grateful to take time to write this letter of support of Camp Greenwood. For the past eight summers, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools has used Camp Greenwood for its band camp. During this time, students from our low-income school district (which is one of the most diverse in the entire state, and has all students on free or reduced lunch program) converge at this beautiful camp to have a very intense week of rehearsals.

Over the years, we have put time and resources into furthering the camp, by spreading grass seed, fertilizer, poison ivy treatment and removal, and assistance with the different activities. We do this as a service to Camp Greenwood hoping that it will make the experience not only for our camp week, but for all who come to the camp during the year.

First, for our students of Lee High School, this camp is often the first experience that many of our students have away from home, and a great experience it is for them! It is the talk of all their high school years, and for many years to come. Graduates of Lee High School almost exclusively use "Band Camp" as one of their top 3 favorite activities of their school life, and one that has stories that last generations.

Freshmen gain their confidence from their first high school activity, and seniors display the leadership that employers crave from employees. The "Star Spangled Banner" goes from sounding like a disaster to a polished, performance-ready display of unity of our country. The marching basics that take place each day help to build for a solid year of performance, and the music for the season goes from sight-reading, to a solid understanding of the concepts. But all of this is short-term. The memories are the things that last. Memories of the cabins, the dining hall, and the time at the lake seem to come back years later.

For me, personally, I have my own feelings toward Camp Greenwood. As a Christian and teacher, the thought of bringing my students to a Christian camp. For many years, we had been going to Central Michigan University for our camp, but money restricted us from continuing there. When the opportunity to go to Greenwood came up, we jumped at it. While I cannot completely display my Christianity during school, all of my students know that I am a fervent believer. I love the little hints that are displayed for the students to see day in and day out plant seeds for our students who really need them. It is this reason that we continue to come to Camp Greenwood year after year. The same reason that the camp was began: to spread the Word of Christ to all the world is the reason that I pray Camp Greenwood will still be around to plant, nurture and grow the Kingdom of God.

If you have any questions, I beg of you to please contact me. I would love to have the opportunity to discuss the future of the camp. As school begins, my schedule becomes more difficult, but I will make the time to do what is necessary.

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